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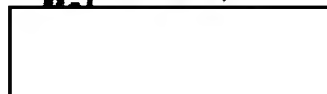
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Cease-Fire Developments

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24

22 June 1973
No. 2044, '73

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Cease-Fire Developments

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SECRET**SOUTH VIETNAM****COB VN Instructions on "New" Cease-fire**

COB VN has issued instructions to its cadre concerning the joint communique of 13 June establishing the "new" cease-fire. The new directions reportedly say that there are now two key objectives:

--to implement a "true cease-fire" and end all fighting so that the "liberated areas can be developed";

--to force the South Vietnamese Government "to promulgate and respect the democratic liberties of the people," such as freedoms of movement, meeting, belief, and the right to free enterprise.

The instructions assert that these two objectives are more important than the other parts of the communique, such as the delineation of territory, and that cadre are to concentrate on strengthening the Viet Cong's political apparatus by recruiting, proselyting, and attracting civilians to Communist-controlled areas. COB VN also specifically noted that the communique does not change earlier guidelines on the political struggle and that these "remain exactly as set forth" in previous directives. 25X1

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SECRET**LAOS****Military Situation**

What little fighting there was during the past week occurred in the panhandle. Weeks of skirmishing culminated in the loss of the government's San Boak enclave--not far from the North Vietnamese border. The village's 370 residents have moved to another site several miles to the north. Sharp clashes took place near the town of Soukhouma on the right bank of the Mekong south of Pakse. These small-scale attacks appear designed to bolster the Pathet Lao claim that they hold an enclave in this area.

[REDACTED]

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Souvanna Responds to Rightist Pressure

At a meeting on 21 June, Prime Minister Souvanna responded to strong objections from the Lao Army General Staff to the stationing of Pathet Lao battalions at Vientiane and Luang Prabang by announcing that he would reject this Communist demand. Souvanna said that the negotiations would continue, but added that he could not predict a date for the formation of a new coalition government. He then expressed hope that the US-Soviet summit would result in some change in the Lao Communist position.

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SECRET**CAMBODIA****The Military Situation**

Five of the six battalions assigned to reopen Route 5 northwest of Phnom Penh have now arrived at their staging base at Sala Lek Pram, some 35 miles from the capital. The remaining battalion is to arrive on 23 June, with the clearing operation to begin shortly thereafter. No military activity was reported along Route 6 northeast of Phnom Penh on 22 June. Three government battalions have been assigned to reopen that highway and relieve the isolated garrison at Pnaav. Closer to Phnom Penh, government troops sweeping north and south of Route 4 reported no contact with the Khmer Communists for the second straight day. Farther south, the 3rd Division has been designated to retake the village of Prey Tokung, some 15 miles southeast of Phnom Penh along Route 3. Plans call for a two-pronged attack on the town from the east and the west.

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